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Imperial Delphiniums

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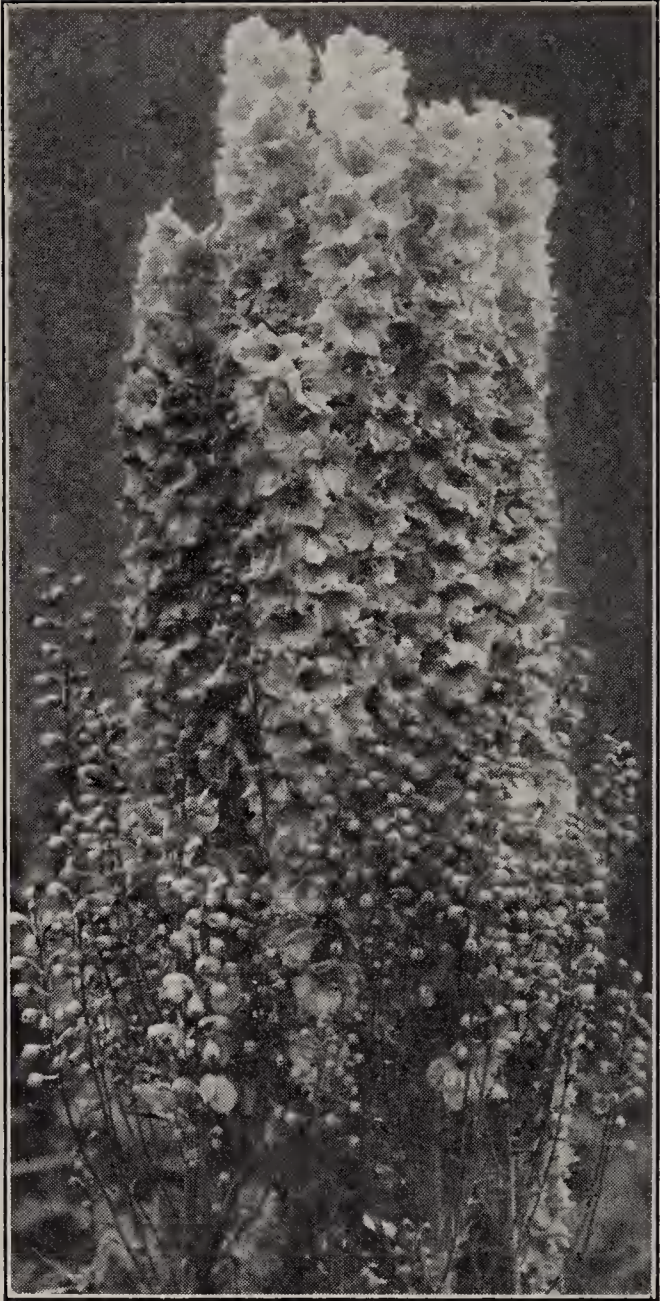


LADY EVELINE

Propagated and grown under the personal direction of
ELMER E. HEALEY, Delphinium Specialist

DELPHIA DELL GARDENS

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON



EMPEROR

I do not believe this delph has an equal among delphiniums. Every spike is almost the same height and it blooms in great trusses right out to the end of the stalk, which will average about eight feet high. It is a double dark purple with very dark bee. Quite frequently it reproduces true, but some of the most amazing creations I have ever seen have been from this parent. All Emperor seed are taken from this one floral giant, so our supply is very limited.

FOREWORD

Did you ever have a real hobby? If not, you do not know all the good times you have missed. Although a professional man, raising flowers has been my hobby. Roses, Lilacs, Tulips and Delphiniums have been my "idle hour" companions. But my real love was for the hybrid delphinium, to my mind the most stately, most majestic, most colorful and appealing of all perennials. Here, there and everywhere I found my plants. The finest specimens of England and America have contributed to my garden. Cross breeding and rigid selection worked many miracles until at length I found my efforts rewarded by a delphinium garden filled with plants so marvelously beautiful, so unusual, so awe-inspiring, that I was persuaded by my friends to give to the world the results of my experiments. They were so regal in form and beauty that I called them IMPERIALS.

There are not many of this royal family in my garden—scarcely 200 plants—but each is a masterpiece. High into space (seven to ten feet) they raise their majestic crowns with great flower heads and enormous blooms (average about 3 inches in diameter). And such color combinations! Every known shade of blue, violet, indigo, lavender and purple combine in dazzling effects. Every bloom is double with fantastic centers—the bee, of white or black or brown. Attracted by the brilliancy of the bloom, the bees, the butterflies and the humming birds add their presence to the picture.

There may be a garden as beautiful, even more beautiful, somewhere in the world, but it has not been my good fortune to see it. And it is from this mystic fairy garden that every seed or seedling plant comes that is sent out to any customer from my DELPHIA DELL.

SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS

No plant is so capricious as the delphinium when reproduction is considered. No one can tell just what a seedling will be. The purest white may produce the brightest blue or a dazzling lavender may produce an imposing purple. Originally the delphinium had a single blossom and it has a constant tendency to revert to type. Only double delphs are allowed to grow in my garden. The American Delphinium Society Bulletin states that if 5 per cent of seedlings are of high quality the result is good, but my own experience shows that over 25 per cent

of my seedlings are of the highest types and less than 15 per cent are really poor.

All my seeds are taken from my specimen plants and picked pod by pod as they ripen. All seedling plants are from these finest of seeds and both seed and plants are identical with those I raise each year for experimental purposes. About 60 per cent of the seedlings come double. Many of the single blooms are amazingly beautiful. For classification purposes many of my plants are named by me and seed of each kept separate and can be obtained by name. Our general mixture contains some of all the named types. All seedling plants, however, are from the mixed seed. (No exception to this.)

PLANTING TIME

Seeds can be planted any time from August 1st to September 15th and from January 1st to May 15th. If seed are purchased in the late summer, we recommend the planting of only half when purchased and balance in the spring. Keep surplus seed in the coolest place available and in a closed fruit jar, else their vitality will be destroyed.

Plants may be set with almost uniform results from September 15th to October 15th or from April 15th to May 15th, although I have successfully shipped plants every month of the summer. Spring shipped plants are sent intact as dug; fall shipped plants are "cut back" before being sent out.

Of course it is easier to succeed with plants than with seed and so plants are recommended **ESPECIALLY** for the small garden. However, if you want a large selection of plants for a small investment, buy seeds. Almost all of them will grow if you follow the directions which particularly describe planting. Plants give you nearly one year's advantage over seeds as all our plants are at least one year old. Plants from seeds are as easy to raise as any garden vegetable, but you must "baby" them for the first month if you want results.

GUARANTEE

We guarantee that all plants will reach you in good growing condition, nearly as fresh as when dug. Our packing method is unexcelled and plants will keep safely for 15 days, so will thus carry anywhere. Our seeds are

guaranteed to germinate and thrive if you do your part. We will replace free any unsatisfactory seed or plants at earliest possible date. We refer you to any bank in Puyallup, Washington, or Secretary of Commercial Club as to our standing, also "American Homes" or "Flower Grower."

COMMENTS

We have supplied nearly every large grower in America with our plants and seeds. Hundreds of repeat orders testify as to the quality of Imperials.

You can buy cheaper seeds and plants than ours, but remember that a delph is something you will have for years; so get something good.

There are many growers of fine delphs in this country who have developed their own strains. Some of these are Pudor, Wing, Barber, Vanderbilt, Duckham, Leonian and others with whose work I am not familiar. I will gladly send you the address of any of the above. I strongly urge you to buy American grown plants and seeds. Experience proves that our best strains are superior to anything offered from abroad, notwithstanding "high sounding" names and representations to the contrary. Many foreign delphs eventually do well here, but it is a long, hard task to acclimate them to our conditions; at least, that is my experience.

Have you ever had a fine delphinium bloom and then die without cause? It often happens. None can avoid it. It usually occurs in our daintiest types. Originally delphinium was a bi-annual. It is the "blood tendency" to revert to type that causes the plant to bloom and then die forever. I lost all my pink plants in this manner in 1931. Black spots on the leaves in spring should be picked off and burned. They disappear as the plant grows. Borers sometimes attack delphs. There is no remedy but to cut the plant down. Do not dig it up as it will come on again stronger than ever. Keep all plants staked. Do not let more than six stalks grow. When plant is three feet high, remove all leaves and shoots half way up the stalk. Always use a pair of scissors to prune delphs so as not to "skin" the stalk. Water the plants only when needed and by irrigation along the plant. Never sprinkle. Insect pests seldom bother delphs. If they do, procure Black Leaf 40 and use as directed. The plants require 4 feet of space each way. If plants are

cut back after blooming, they will bloom a second time. Let seed thoroughly ripen before picking. Pick just as pod opens; else you will lose the seed. Do not allow any inferior plant to live. Dig it out; else it may pollute your entire bed as far as seed is concerned.

PLANTS OF SPECIAL MENTION

I have developed many plants that are unusual. My Rosabelle—a true old rose, solid in color—is the only one in existence so far as I know. It is most striking in appearance, beautiful in the extreme, hardy and the full equal in size of bloom, head and stalk of any delph now grown. It is destined to be the sensation of the floral world when I release it for sale.

My Mt. Tacoma is as near a true double white as has been developed to date. It is of fine form and size, but to me a white delph is not attractive; I want color. Then we have our Blue Plume, a velvety double marine blue, without a trace of other color, to my mind the finest true delphinium blue developed thus far.

No plants of these great THREE are for sale. Seed, however, is available with no guarantee that they will produce true to type.

NAMED VARIETIES

(All the following named plants are over seven feet in height and have individual blooms of from 2½ to 3 inches in diameter.)

LADY EVELINE—Light lavender streaked with orchid on royal blue base. White bee. Very large and thrifty.

PRIDE OF PACIFIC—Lavender on dark blue. Dark bee. Immense size.

EMPEROR—Double, dark purple with dark bee. Finest of all dark delphs.

EMPRESS—Light lavender on pale blue base. White bee.

ROYAL ROBE—A triple. An immense bloom of purple blended with indigo. No bee.

EVENING GLORY—Deep purple on dark blue. White bee. Very striking.

MORNING GLORY—Light lavender on dark lavender. A great white bee.

BLUE BIRD—Dark blue on dark blue, dark bee. A real sensation.

NYMPH—Old rose tinted lavender on bright blue. Dark bee. A bigger and sturdier delph than Millicent Blackmore, but similar.

HERBERT McNAMEE—Solid violet. Dark bee. Great size. Very unusual.

MARGIE—Intense light blue on dark blue. White bee. Very large.

MARY ALBERTSON—Lavender on light blue with large brown bee. Fine.

ETTA JENSEN—Lavender on wisteria. Brown bee. Rare. Striking.

JOLLY ELK—Light purple on dark purple. White bee. Beautiful.

U. S. A.—Gigantic stalk and bloom. Lavender on lavender. White bee. Bloom larger than Pride of Pacific.

MONA LISA—Dark blue base. Wisteria face and grey bee. Very appealing.

TEMPTATION—Solid robin egg blue. White bee. You just feel you must break off a stalk when you see this.

PERCY LEGG—A large stock and flower of light blue on dark blue, the tip of each petal being wisteria.

GOLDEN GLEAM—Canary yellow, yellow bee. It is not thrifty everywhere. Not recommended.

MT. TACOMA—White with yellow bee.

ROSABELLE—A real, solid old rose. Thrifty, beautiful, unusual, unique. Several customers report success in obtaining this color with seedlings, both seeds and plants.

Sixty more distinct named types or color combinations.

Note: Not all of the above are for sale as I do not have them in commercial quantities. However, all the seeds are in mixture and in most cases can be obtained separately. I advise you to pick a combination of at least four if you want seed from the named plants only.



Space does not permit me to give directions for planting seed. The method is very simple, however, and if you would follow our instructions, delphs are as easily raised from seed as any other plant; in fact, easier, for they will stand real abuse. We send full directions with all seed and you just can't fail. Directions sent with all plants, too.

FERTILIZERS

It is best to fertilize your soil in the fall. Rotted barn manure is best. Use lots of lime. You can't use too much. Fish meal or blood meal spaded into the soil is fine. 6-8-6 commercial fertilizer from your dealer is good, but use sparingly. Bone meal is useless except as a lime substitute.



MORNING GLORY

(Exact Size)

Face sepals are lavender tinged with pink on base sepals of light blue—white bee. A marvelous flower with splendid stalk. The above is just one of 80 other types of equal meritorious qualities.

Price List



Prices of Plants are as follows: \$2.50 per doz.
4.50 per 25
8.00 per 50
14.00 per 100.

Named varieties are 75¢ each.

Seeds 50¢ per 100

\$1.00 per 250

\$2.00 per 600.

